

M2 Presswire: At IBM, climate protection is cool

More severe weather, shrinking ice caps and rising sea levels, among other things are believed to result from global warming.

And according to the vast majority of scientists, a significant cause of the warming is the increasing emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from human activities. Most people don't realize, however, that generating electricity is the single biggest source of carbon dioxide, accounting for almost 40 percent of the world's output.

IBM has been committed to issues such as this since it created its corporate policy on environmental affairs in the early 1970s. Thankfully, IBM's operations do not release significant quantities of so-called greenhouse gases, so the company addresses climate change by using renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from semiconductor manufacturing, and offering commuting options for employees.

IBM has committed to a number of voluntary climate goals. In joining the World Wildlife Fund's Climate Savers program, IBM committed to achieve average annual carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to 4 percent of the emissions associated with its energy use from 1998 -2004. IBM beat that goal, reducing its emissions by an annual average of 5.7 percent during that period. This reduction is the equivalent of taking off the road 51,600 midsize cars, each traveling 10,000 miles per year. This achievement earned IBM a Climate Savers award from the World Wildlife Fund and the Center for Energy & Climate Solutions.

Likewise the company's work with employee commuting received notice. IBM was named one of the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Top 20 Best Workplaces for Commuters among Fortune 500 companies**. IBM has extensive e-commute and work-from-home options that greatly reduce employee commuting.

It also works to make commuting as efficient as possible at its Workplaces for Commuters sites by providing such services as commuter information kiosks, car pool matching and a Guaranteed Ride Home program, which provides regular commuters with a free and reliable ride home if an emergency arises. IBM also reduces employee trips by providing on-site ATMs, full service cafeterias and credit union drop boxes.

IBM estimates that its work from home program in U.S. avoided 58,000 tons of automobile-generated carbon dioxide emissions last year. Car-pooling and other commuter programs accounted for another estimated 5,000 tons of carbon dioxide saved.

In addition, IBM shares its climate protection efforts with customers by providing energy-efficient products. For example, innovations in IBM's technologies and products have reduced the operating power per unit of relative performance of its servers. Generation to generation energy savings last year ranged from 16 to 90 percent, depending on the model.